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Message Text

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20
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OMB-01 TRSE-00 /070 W
---------- 071492
R 150231Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4911
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
US MISSION UN NEW YORK 778

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, MY, CE
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE TRAVEL BY PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE

REF: (A) KUALA LUMPUR 5757 (NOTAL), (B) COLOMBO 3799 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. MFA OFFICIAL CONFIRMS PRIME MININSTER BANDARANAIKE WILL VISIT MALAYSIA IN NOVEMBER BUT DECLINES COMMENT ON DATES CITED BY PRESS, NOTING ARRANGEMENTS NOT RPT NOT YET FINALIZED. SRI LANKA HICOM OFFICER HOWEVER STATES MRS. BANDARANAIKE WILL VISIT MALAYSIA NOV5-8. LOCAL PRESS HAS REPORTED FINANCE MINISTER FELIX BANDARANAIKE'S REMARKS HERE DEFENDING HIS ACTIONS AT RECENT COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE (NAC) IN CURTAILING REMARKS BY MALAYSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER RITHAUDDEEN DURING DEBATE ON MALAYSIA'S PET SOUTHEAST ASIAN ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY (ZPFN) PROPOSAL, ON GROUNDS INTER ALIA THAT "NO ONE CAN BE PERFECT"* END SUMMARY.

2. MFA OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SOUTH ASIAN AFFAIRS, WAN
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HUSSEIN BIN WAN MUSTAPHA, TOLD US TODAY (OCT 14) THAT

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SRI LANKAN PRIME MINISTER MRS. SIRIMAVO BANDARANAIKE WOULD
BE VISITING MALAYSIA IN NOVEMBER BUT WOULD NOT CONFIRM
DATES OF NOVEMBER 5-7 MENTIONED BY FINANCE MINISTER FELIX
BANDARANAIKE IN PENANG OCT 11 (REF B). DATES REMAINED TO BE
FINALIZED, WAN HUSSEIN NOTED, ADDING THAT AS SOON AS
SCHEDULE AGREED ON GOM WOULD ANNOUNCE THIS OFFICIALLY.
SRI LANKA HICOM SECOND SECRETARY BERNARD GOONETILLEKE HOWEVER
SAID THAT MRS. B. WOULD BE ARRIVING EVENING OF NOVEMBER 5
AND DEPARTING MORNING OF NOVEMBER 8.

3. ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL NEWS SERVICE "BERNAMA," WHILE
SPEAKING TO NEWSMEN ON ARRIVAL IN KUALA LUMPUR OCT 9 SRI
LANKAN FINANCE MINISTER FELIX BANDARANAIKE SAID THAT SRI
LANKA SUPPORTED THE ENDORSEMENT OF THE KUALA LUMPUR DECLARATION
(ON THE ZPFN) AT THE 1973 ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT AND THAT
THIS POSITION REMAINED UNCHANGED. HE DESCRIBED AS "VERY
UNFORTUNATE" THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH COLOMBO NAC FAILED
TO RE-ENDORSE MALAYSIA'S PROPOSAL, BUT DENIED SUGGESTIONS THAT
HE HAD BEEN BIASED AGAINST MALAYSIA WHILE CHAIRING DEBATE
ON THE ISSUE. LACK OF TIME FORCED THE MATTER TO BE REFERRED
TO THE NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING BUREAU, AND IT WAS THE POLITICAL
COMMITTEE OF THE SUMMIT, IN WHICH THE MALAYSIAN PROPOSAL
FOR RE-ENDORSEMENT OF THE ZPFN AND A LAOTIAN AMENDMENT WERE
DISCUSSED, WHICH SHOULD BE BLAMED FOR FAILING TO RESOLVE THE
MATTER, HE REPORTEDLY CONTENDED. RE RITHAUDDEEN'S
CHARACTERIZATION OF HIS CURTAILING DEBATE AS BEING "ERRONEOUS,"
FELIX REPLIED, "WHEN CHAIRING A MEETING IT IS DIFFICULT FOR A
PERSON TO KNOW WHETHER HE IS BEING RIGHT OR WONG. NO ONE
CAN BE PERFECT."

4. RE PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE'S VISIT, WHICH HE SAID
WAS TENTATIVELY SET FOR NOV 5-8, HE TOLD REPORTERS IT
ORIGINALLY HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR LAST YEAR BUT WAS
POSTPONED FOLLOWING THE SUDDEN ILLNESS OF LATE PM RAZAK.
PURPOSE OF VISIT WOULD BE TO STRENGTHEN TIES IN GENERAL, WITH
SPECIFIC FOCUS ON INCREASED ECONOMIC COOPERATION. FOLLOWING
MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN ONN IN PENANG OCT 11, HE
SAID THAT "THE DATE FOR HER THREE DAY VISIT, NOV 5-7, HAS
BEEN AGREED ON."

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5. COMMENT: WE SUSPECT DATES OF NOV 5-8 MAY HOLD DESPITE
MFA RELUCTANCE TO CONFIRM THEM, SINCE WE FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE
SRI LANKAN HICOM OFFICER AND FELIX BANDARANAIKE WOULD SPEAK
SO CATEGORICALLY IF DATES WERE NOT INDEED AGREED UPON.
DILLON

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